

**STATEMENT OF PAUL HOFFMAN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONCERNING S. 2167, TO ESTABLISH THE LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK IN THE STATES OF WASHINGTON AND OREGON**

**May 20, 2004**

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Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today on S. 2167, to establish the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in the States of Washington and Oregon.

The Department supports enactment of S. 2167. This bill, which would expand Fort Clatsop National Memorial to include sites in the state of Washington as well as Oregon and rename the unit the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, is an Administration initiative, submitted to Congress in February of this year. S. 2167 would facilitate a promising partnership between the National Park Service and the two states for coordinating management and interpretation of all the federal and state sites related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the lower Columbia River region. We urge the committee to move this legislation as quickly as possible in order to increase the likelihood of its enactment before the start of the Lewis and Clark Expedition 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events in Washington and Oregon, which are scheduled to begin in the summer of 2005.

S. 2167 would implement the recommendations that resulted from the Fort Clatsop National Memorial boundary expansion study the National Park Service conducted of three sites along the lower Columbia River in the State of Washington that are important to the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The study found that the three sites are

nationally significant, and that they are suitable and feasible for addition to Fort Clatsop National Memorial. It recommended that two of the sites and part of the third site be added to Fort Clatsop. It also called for changing the name of Fort Clatsop to the “Lewis and Clark National Historical Park,” to reflect not only the addition of the Washington sites, but also the fact that the Fort Clatsop National Memorial now includes a much larger area in Oregon than just the site where Fort Clatsop stood. The study further recommended that the National Park Service enter into partnerships with the states of Oregon and Washington to coordinate management and interpretation at all of the federal and state sites in the area related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, both for management efficiencies and to provide a more cohesive presentation to the public of the Expedition’s experiences upon their arrival and encampment on the Pacific coast.

For the three Washington sites, the cost to the federal government for land acquisition is estimated to range from \$1.5 million to \$2.3 million, and for development, between \$2.1 million and \$4 million. Annual operating costs are estimated at about \$127,000.

Fort Clatsop National Memorial, near Astoria, Oregon, was established to commemorate the 1805-1806 winter encampment of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The original site consists of a replica of the fort that was constructed through the efforts of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Oregon and Clatsop County Historical Societies, Crown-Zellerbach, other civic organizations and many individual volunteers. The donation of the reconstructed fort and acres of surrounding land in 1958 allowed the establishment of the memorial. Public Law 107-221, the Fort Clatsop National Memorial Expansion Act of 2002, expanded the memorial from 125 acres to up to 1,500 acres of land adjacent to

the site. These lands are a priority for acquisition in the Administration's budget request for Fiscal Year 2005. The expansion also provides for a five-mile Fort To Sea Trail, which will enable park visitors to walk from Fort Clatsop to Sunset Beach. Like the original park, the trail is being designed and will be constructed largely through donated resources and volunteer labor.

In addition to the expansion of Fort Clatsop, Public Law 107-221 also authorized the boundary study of three sites in Washington that became the basis for S. 2167. These sites are Clark's Dismal Nitch, Station Camp, and Cape Disappointment. They would form the Washington state part of the new Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

Clark's Dismal Nitch is the place where the Expedition nearly foundered as they were pinned against the cliffs by a fierce Pacific storm, just a few short miles from the mouth of the Columbia River. Approximately 30 acres would be donated by the State of Washington, and up to 160 acres would be acquired in fee or easement from a willing seller.

Station Camp is the site where the Lewis and Clark Expedition finally reached the mouth of the Columbia River. It was at that location that Captain William Clark completed the most detailed survey of the entire journey, and the members of the Expedition launched reconnaissance trips north along what is now known as the Long Beach Peninsula in Washington. It is also the site where the members of the Expedition, including Clark's slave York and the young Shoshone Indian woman Sacagawea, voted to decide where to spend the winter. As a result of the vote, the Expedition crossed over the Columbia River

and built what we now know as Fort Clatsop. Washington State is currently investing approximately \$6.5 million in realigning a highway and creating a riverside park at Station Camp that will be dedicated to commemorating this part of the Lewis and Clark story. If S. 2167 is enacted, the state would donate the key portion of the site, about 15 acres, along with the new improvements to the National Park Service. About 455 acres would be acquired in easement from a willing seller to protect the scenic backdrop.

Cape Disappointment was the furthest point west the Expedition explored. It was there that the members of the Expedition first saw a full view of the Pacific Ocean. Land at Cape Disappointment is owned by the Federal government and managed as a state park. Under S. 2167, the National Park Service could be given administrative jurisdiction over 1,140 acres of Federal land at Cape Disappointment and, in that case, would enter into a cooperative management agreement with the state of Washington to allow that land to continue to be operated as a state park. Twenty acres within the state park would be managed by the National Park Service as a memorial to Thomas Jefferson to commemorate his vision of a country “from sea to shinning sea” and how the Lewis and Clark Expedition helped to achieve this vision.

The language in Section 4(d)(5) of the bill that pertains to the disposition of Cape Disappointment, as described above, needs amending to facilitate the transfer in a timely manner and to ensure that the intent of that provision is clear. We would be happy to work with committee to develop an amendment for that purpose.

The boundary study was undertaken in partnership with the Washington State Historical Society, the Washington State Park and Recreation Department, and the Oregon State Park and Recreation Department. Through this collaboration, the study team determined that nationally significant sites associated with the Lewis and Clark story are also under the management of the both Washington and Oregon Parks and Recreation Departments. These sites are found within Cape Disappointment State Park and Fort Columbia in Washington, and Fort Stevens State Park and Ecola State Parks in Oregon.

As a result, the study called for the National Park Service to enter into cooperative management agreements with both states to operate the National Park Service units in close collaboration with these state park units, and S. 2167 specifically provides the authority for that purpose. Collectively, the parks would be identified as the “Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Parks.” This would be a similar arrangement to the one at Redwood National Park, where the federal and state park agencies share resources under a cooperative management agreement and identify the parks for public information purposes as “Redwood National and State Parks.”

Mr. Chairman, in summary, S. 2167 offers an exciting and timely opportunity to expand the American public’s appreciation of the great achievements of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and to do so through a very promising partnership with two states that are extremely supportive of this effort. That concludes my statement. I will be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.